(b) whether it is a fact that carbon di-oxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to initiate to mitigate processes that go against nature and also impress upon UN Panel countries to give incentives to developing countries like India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Developed countries who are Party to Kyoto Protocol have emission reduction targets and overall they have to reduce their emissions by 5.2% during 2008-12 from 1990 levels. As per their National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC), these Parties claim to be taking actions to achieve their targets. However it is early to judge whether they will be able to achieve their targets. Some non-Parties to Kyoto Protocol, namely, USA and Australia, have also taken some measures for reducing emissions.

(b) The amounts of carbon-di-oxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased from the pre- industrial era to the year 2005 as follows:

Carbon dioxide	—	280 ppm to 379 parts per million (ppm)
Methane	—	715 ppb to 1774 parts per billion (ppb)
Nitrousoxide	—	270 ppb to 319 parts per billion (ppb)

(c) The Government is committed for sustainable development and for undertaking its responsibilities in consonance with the provisions of UNFCCC. The Government has been stating at the UNFCCC and other international meetings that Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), under which developing countries take mitigation efforts while following the path of economic growth and sustainable development, should be strengthened.

Environmental clearance

460. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to simplify the process of grant of environmental clearance to various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of projects are pending with Government for environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the extent to which simplifying the process of according environmental clearance will help in clearing the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has revised Environmental Clearance Process through an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification issued vide S.O. No. 1533 (E) dated 14th September, 2006 superseding the earlier EIA Notification, 1994 to make the Environmental Clearance Process more transparent, efficient and de-centralized with certainty in time frame.

(c) 844 Projects in various sectors of developmental activities are pending for environmental clearance.

(d) The EIA Notification, 2006 provides for Scoping for preparation of quality EIA Reports, Structured Public Consultations with stipulated time frame, Decentralization of environmental clearance by constituting State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) and time limits at each stage, thus enabling speedy clearance of projects.

Coffee plantation in A.P.

461. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of the proposal received by his Ministry from Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation for raising coffee plantation in 10,000 hectares of degraded forest lands in Eastern Godavari Ghats of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh and to provide employment to 3000 tribal families and also to cover precious soil and moisture through ground coverage;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to this proposal; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to sanction it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation submitted a proposal to the Ministry of environment and Forests (MoEF) for rasing coffee plantation in degraded forests land in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. As the said proposal was not in the prescribed format for seeking approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Government has been requested to submit the proposal in the prescribed format.

Encouraging farmers for plantation of trees

† 462. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage farmers for adopting plantation of trees in the hilly regions especially Central Himalayan region of the country;

(b) whether his ministry has any plan to link plantation of trees with the livelihood of the people in environmentally highly sensitive regions, *e.g.* plan to promote plantation of forests trees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme to regenerate degraded forests and adjoining areas through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. The members of the JFMCs include farmers in the JFM villages. The scheme is being implemented in all 28 states of the country, including states in the hilly region of the country. As on 31.3.2007,729 FDA projects were approved at a total cost of Rs. 1658.09 crores to cover project area of 9.36 lakh hectares through 24,215 JFMCs. State-wise details are given in the Statement *(See* below). The benefits from the area regenerated under the scheme are shared with the members of JFMCs as per the JFM resolution of the respective States to directly support the livelihoods of the people. In addition, the scheme supports livelihoods of JFMC members by providing assitance for taking up Entry Points Activities which are decided by the JFMC members themselves.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.